

Page 10

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# Opinion of The Day

## Good prospect for the CIA

**R**EBUKED by congressional reaction to his nomination of Theodore Sorensen as chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, President Carter now has come up with a candidate who seems eminently qualified. Mr. Carter's man is Adm. Stansfield Turner, commander of Allied forces in Southern Europe and former president of the Naval War College in Newport.

Admiral Turner seems to have the qualifications. An apt student during his Amherst and Naval Academy days, he has had a naval career encompassing a variety of assignments. His non-professional background is wide-ranging and is based on an innate curiosity and never-ending activity. He loves opera and sports and his academic interests have included studies in philosophy, politics and economics as a Rhodes Scholar. He also has a reputation as a manager.

What Congress and most thoughtful taxpayers are, or should be, concerned about is the admiral's sensitivity for the rights of people and their civil government at home and abroad. The country has been burned by excesses and callousness of previous CIA directors, notably during the Nixon years.

What is clear at present is that the admiral is not wedded to any partisan doctrine. He is a professional's profes-

sional. The Senate will have ample opportunity to discern his attitudes about the gathering of intelligence and the uses to which it can and should be put.

President Ford's man for the job was George Bush. He left office with a clean record but he was and is essentially a politician, having served as Republican national chairman. This left an aura of partisanship where no political ties belong.

President Carter's initial choice, Mr. Sorensen, is a bright man with considerable experience in government but he couldn't resist the lure of "borrowing" government papers, writing a book based in part on them, and then "donating" them to the archives with a subsequent income tax deduction claim.

The directorship of the CIA is not an easy slot to fill. The person who holds it cannot be in a position where he is likely to be compromised. At the same time, he is in a job which must direct operations in a world and at a time in which the United States is subject to all manner of highly sophisticated spying attempts.

Admiral Turner seems ideally suited for the job. A hard worker, non-politician devoted to the service of his country, he could rank among the best of the men, nine of them since the agency was first established in 1947, to have held this vital office.